

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2701
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PASS TO FAA, CAB

ROME FOR CAA DWOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR IR

SUBJ: CIVAIR: IIAF TAKES OVER CONSTRUCTION OF TEHRAN
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

1. DESPITE COMPLETION OF BASIC PLANNING AND DESIGN BY CONSULTANTS TIBBETS-ABBOT-MCCARTHY-STRATTON (TAMS) ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, INITIATION OF CONSTRUCTION ON NEW TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (TIA) HAS BEEN DELAYED BY BUREAUCRATIC INACTION WITHIN GOI. AT A MEETING WITH RCAA DWOR IN APRIL, CAO ADMINISTRATOR/VICE-MINISTER OF WAR MEHDI HADJIMONIRI TOLD CIVAIR OFFICER THAT HE WAS CONTEMPLATING TURNING OVER CONSTRUCTION OF TIA TO A PRIVATE CORPORATION TO AVOID THE ENDLESS INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEES AND COORDINATING GROUPS WHICH WERE HINDERING PROGRESS.

2. AT MEETING TO DISCUSS FAA PROPOSALS FOR CAAG GROUP AND FOR MODERNIZATION OF IRANIAN ATC ON MAY 18, HADJIMONIRI TOLD VIAIR OFFICER THAT DECISION HAD BEEN MADE IN EARLY MAY BY THE SHAH TO TURN OVER CONSTRUCTION OF TIA TO THE
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IMPERIAL IRANIAN AIR FORCE (IIAF) UNDER GENERAL DIRECTION OF IIAF COMMANDER GENERAL RABII. ALTHOUGH THE COMPLETE PASSENGER FACILITY WILL NOT BE FUNCTIONING BEFORE 1984-85, GENERAL RABII HAS PROMISED TO HAVE ONE RUNWAY, CONTROL TOWER AND MINIMUM NECESSARY NAVAIDS READY IN THREE YEARS (SUMMER 1980). IT IS PLANNED THAT THE IIAF WILL USE THE FACILITY FOR TRAINING (PRACTICE LANDINGS, TOUCH-AND-GO,

ETC) ALTHOUGH IIAF FIGHTER AND TRANSPORT UNITS CURRENTLY THERE WILL REMAIN BASED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MEHRABAD AIRPORT. THERE ARE NO CURRENT PLANS TO BASE MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT TIA, BUT THERE HAS BEEN DISCUSSION OF USE OF THE TIA CARGO TERMINAL BY THE IIAF, AND TAMS PLANS SHOW PROVISION FOR FUTURE EXPANSION BY ADDITION OF SECOND CARGO TERMINAL.

3. CAO HAS ASKED FAA TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON TAMS PROPOSAL FOR NAVAIDS AND RECEIVER-TRANSMITTER FACILITIES (WHICH WAS PREPARED BY U.S. VENDOR COLLINS).

4. COMMENT: MOVING IIAF TRAINING AWAY FROM MEHRABAD WILL CONSIDERABLY IMPROVE SAFETY AS THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 130 MILITARY LANDINGS, TAKE-OFFS OR TOUCH-AND-GO LANDINGS DAILY AT MEHRABAD. OVERALL IIAF SUPERVISION OF PROJECT, ESPECIALLY IN SETTING FUNDS, SHOULD ADVANCE DATE OF GROUND-BREAKING CONSIDERABLY. WILL ADVISE AS DETAILS BECOME AVAILABLE ON TENDERS.
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Message Attributes

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